



Uniqueness Statement

People say that children are our future. I say that children are also our present. To help today's children grow to be healthy and self-sufficient members of society, we must work together to promote good health in all its forms - mental, physical, and spiritual.

-Surgeon General Richard Carmona MD, MPH

The Challenge: A National Problem

- Current healthcare costs \$2 trillion *annually*. Two-thirds of that is spent on preventable diseases and injuries that cause poor productivity and tremendous absenteeism in the workplace and the classroom.
- Preventive care could help avert 4.4 million hospitalizations annually, according to the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Steadily escalating healthcare costs, combined with a decline in health education and prevention efforts in our schools, weakens the economic and social fabric of our nation.
- Youth mental health issues and substance abuse are known contributors to the alarming national high school drop out rate, particularly in at-risk communities.

Who We Are

Established in 1989, the National Association of Health Education Centers (NAHEC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and promoting a national network of organizations that provide health education programs. With 35 member organizations in 22 states and the District of Columbia, over 3.7 million children and adults receive vital health education that empowers them to actively participate in creating healthier communities.

Our Mission

Our mission is to make health education broadly accessible, effective, and sustainable. This organization shall meet its mission by:

- Promoting the advancement and development of health education organizations.
- Advancing health literacy through collaborative relationships with organizations that share a commitment to health knowledge.
- Providing strategic leadership to promote methodologies that demonstrate most current science and future trends of health and education.
- Leading in far-reaching distribution systems for health education.

Our Vision

Empowered children and adults building healthier communities resulting in reduced healthcare costs.

Our Core Values

Quality of life for all is improved by:

- Empowering children and adults to make healthier choices,
- Reducing the costs of health care through disease and injury prevention, and
- Increasing health literacy, especially to the underserved.

NAHEC - A Distinct Advantage

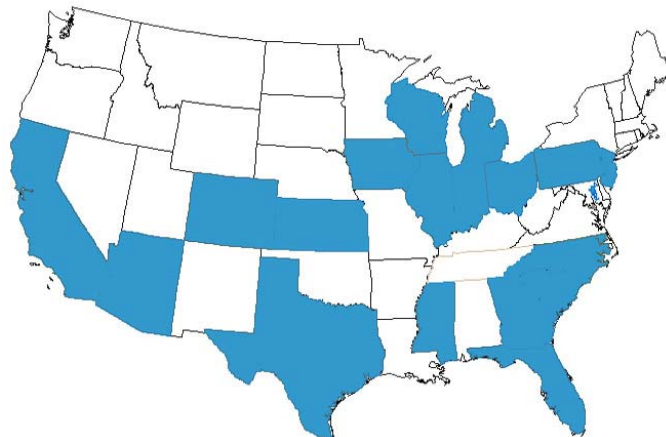
Why partner with NAHEC? NAHEC is uniquely positioned to fulfill its mission.

- NAHEC is a **national** organization whose members provide health education programming throughout the United States and in several foreign countries through on-site, outreach and distance learning methodologies.
- NAHEC is a **comprehensive** organization that presents a wide range of health education programs.
- NAHEC is an **experienced** organization that has over 100 years of cumulative experience among its staff in organizational and health education leadership.
- NAHEC is a **technologically sophisticated** organization that has made cutting-edge use of wireless keypad technology and distance learning to broadly disseminate health-related information.
- NAHEC is a **proactive** organization that has an established track record of piloting and disseminating new health education methodologies with its member organizations which, in turn, are introduced to local schools and communities.
- NAHEC is a **school-focused** organization with over 90% of all programs offered by its members designed to enhance school health and science curricula.
- NAHEC is an **advocate** organization for quality health education and an active participant in the national dialogue about critical health education issues.

Our Members

NAHEC members may be independent or affiliated with hospitals, museums, schools, science centers, or universities. Members build on strong collaborative relationships with more than 10,000 schools and community groups to empower children and adults with comprehensive health knowledge needed to make healthy life decisions and prevent disease and injury. Pre-schoolers through adults of diverse backgrounds (urban, suburban, and rural) engage in highly interactive, innovative learning experiences with professional educators.

States with NAHEC Members



Our Partners

Partners connect members with the products, services, programs and additional resources they need to help them reach their mission.

Our Advocates

Advocates are individuals or organizations who support the mission through financial contributions which are not tied to specific programs.